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09/645,805	08/24/2000	Philip Orrin Wheeler	8371-109	4190

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MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM PC
1030 SW MORRISON STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97205

EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/645,805

Applicant(s)

WHEELER, PHILIP ORRIN

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 August 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 (1/12/01).
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following minor informalities: at the step of b): “providing information about the paper and the tray **to the printing device**”, the Examiner suggests to change that step to “providing information about the paper and the tray **in the** printing device” or “providing information about the paper and the tray **to the user interface**”, which is described in page 5, lines 5-8 from the specification of the application. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 6, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gibbons et al. (US Patent No. 5,305,020).

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As to claim 1, Gibbons teaches a method of configuring paper stock in a printing device (fig. 1), the method comprising:

loading paper into a tray of the printing device (fig. 3B and col. 6, lines 10-15 indicates that the interchangeable tray 126 is loaded and hold media of type and size);

providing information about the paper and the tray to the printing device (i.e., the controller 46 of the printer) (col. 6, lines 27-32, and 49-53 describes that the status information of the paper of the paper of the tray "i.e., 126", such as the type/size information, and the status of the tray 126, such as full/empty information, are provided to the printer controller 46 and a processor 56); and

automatically updating a user interface (i.e., a media indicator 134 in fig. 3A) to include the information about the paper and the tray (col. 6, lines 49-54 also describes that the status information of the paper and the tray is provided to the printer controller 46 and updated at the media indicator 134).

As to claim 2, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Gibbons further teaches the printing device is printer (10 in fig. 2 and col. 4, line 43).

As to claim 6, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Gibbons further teaches scanning a piece of the paper stock (i.e., a paper is sensed and the sensed paper would represent of the presence of type of medium) and associating a resulting scanned image (i.e., the sensed paper signal of the type of medium is displayed on the indicator as an image) with the paper tray (col. 6, lines 49-54 and col. 7, lines 51-56 indicates that the sensed paper signal of the medium associated with the paper tray "i.e., 126" is indicated to indicator 134).

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As to claim 12, Gibbons discloses a computer readable medium (the memory 58 in fig. 1) containing software code (col. 5, lines 29-31 describes that the processor 56 for performing the functions by the programs "the printer driver" stored in the memory 58. Thus, the memory 58 would be considered as a computer readable medium containing software code), the code operable to:

receive information about paper loaded into a printing device and an associated tray (fig. 3B and col. 6, lines 10-15 indicates that the interchangeable tray 126 is loaded and hold media of type and size; and col. 6, lines 27-32, and 49-53 describes that the status information of the paper of the tray "i.e., 126", such as the type/size information, and the status of the tray 126, such as full/empty information, are provided to the printer controller 46 and a processor 56);

update a user interface to include the information (col. 6, lines 49-54 also describes that the changing-status information of the paper and the tray is provided to the printer controller 46 and updated at the media indicator 134).

As to claim 14, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 12, and Gibbons further teaches a medium further comprises a printer driver (col. 5, lines 29-31).

5. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parsons et al. (US Patent No. 5,133,048).

As to claim 8, Parsons discloses a method of providing a user interface (52 in fig. 2) operable to allow communication with a printing device (a printer 8 in fig. 2), the method comprising:

establishing a window on a display device (62 in fig. 1A) viewable by a user (i.e., figure 7 indicates a window for displaying the viewable objects to the user, col. 6, lines 45-56);

providing the user with a view of paper in at least one paper tray of the printing device (figure 10 indicates the window for viewing the size of a paper “175-2”, the type of a paper “178-1” and the color of paper “180-1” from one of the paper trays “202”, col. 6, lines 47-58) ;
and

allowing the user to select the at least one paper tray to complete a print job (col. 4, lines 48-54 describes that in order to complete a print job, the operator can program to the print job with a number of instructions by selecting the a number of objects from the window. Therefore, at least one tray 202, which is one of the objects from the window “fig. 10”, is selected by the operator for complete a print job).

As to claim 9, Parsons discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and Parsons further teaches the view comprises a template (Please see figure 10, the pattern of any of objects is displayed on the window would be considered as a template; or col. 7, lines 21-23 describes that the ordered stock any set of successively different or unique sheets of print media that forms a repetitive pattern or set 215 “fig. 13”. Thus each sheet pattern would be a template).

As to claim 10, Parsons discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and Parsons further teaches the view comprises a designated color (please see figure 13, the view of paper is displayed with its color, col. 7, lines 24-26).

As to claim 11, Parsons discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and Parsons further teaches the view comprises a thumbnail of a piece of the paper (col. 7, lines 21-23 describes that the ordered stock any set of successively different or unique sheets of print media that forms a

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repetitive pattern or set 215 “fig. 13”. Thus, the form of the ordered-sheet set “215 in fig. 13” would be considered as a thumbnail”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in combination with Sanchez et al. (US Patent No. 5,784,177).

As to claim 3, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1.

However, Gibbons does not teach the printing device is a copier.

Sanchez, in the same field of endeavor “the printing operation”, teaches the printing device (16 in fig. 1) is a copier (col. 2, lines 59-61 describes the digital copier which has the capability of operating as a printer).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing device 10 of Gibbons to be a copier as taught by Sanchez. The suggestion for modifying the printing device of Gibbons can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Sanchez because the modified printer would improve the advantage of the printing system by increasing more optional functionalities

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including a copying operation. Such a modification would allow the user to desire for selecting either the printing operation or the copying operation at the printing system.

As to claim 4, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1.

However, Gibbons does not teach the printing device is a multi-function peripheral.

Sanchez, in the same field of endeavor “the printing operation”, teaches the printing device (16 in fig. 1) is a multi-function peripheral (col. 2, lines 59-61 and col. 4, lines 19-22 describes the digital copier to be operable as a multi-functional device).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing device 10 of Gibbons to be a copier as taught by Sanchez. The suggestion for modifying the printing device of Gibbons can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Sanchez because the modified printer would improve the advantage of the printing system by increasing more optional functionalities including a copying operation and a scanning operation. Such a modification would allow the user to desire for selecting either a scanning operation or a copying operation or a printing operation at the printing system.

As to claim 5, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1.

However, Gibbons does not teach of providing information further comprises a control input signal from a control interface on a control panel of the printing device.

Sanchez, in the same field of endeavor “the printing operation mode at the user interface”, teaches of providing information further comprises a control input signal from a control interface on a control panel of the printing device (fig. 5 indicates that the information of the printing device “a copier 16 in fig. 1” , which is provided to the user interface 70 when the

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user needs to set up a job, comprising the current configuration of the copier “col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 5”. The current configuration would be considered a control input signal when the user sets up a job “col. 6, lines 24-29”. Furthermore, the user can set up a job from the current configuration “i.e., the control input” at the control interface on a control panel of the copier when the copier is operable in a stand-alone mode as a standard digital copier “col. 4, lines 15-16”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer status information of Gibbons for comprising a control input from a control interface on a control panel of the printing device as taught by Sanchez. The suggestion for modifying the printing status information of Gibbons can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Sanchez because such a modification would increase the accuracy of the performance of the printing systems by providing the updated/current configuration of the printer to the control panel of the printer so that the user confidently sets up a scanning or copy job with the updated/current input setting options.

As to claim 7, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 1.

However, Gibbons does not teach providing information further comprises accesses a control interface on a computer connected to the printing device.

Sanchez, in the same field of endeavor “the printing operation mode at the user interface”, teaches providing information (i.e., the current capabilities and configuration) comprises accesses a control interface (70 in fig. 5) on a computer (11 in fig. 1) connected to the printing device (16 in fig. 1) (col. 3, lines 60-63 describes that the current capabilities and configuration of the connected copier which is accessed by the computer 11 via the control

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interface “i.e., a graphical user interface 70 in fig. 5” which is described from col. 5, lines 44-51 and col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 5).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer status information of Gibbons for comprising accesses a control interface on a computer connected to the printer as taught by Sanchez. The suggestion for modifying the printer status information of Gibbons can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Sanchez because such a modification would increase the accuracy of the performance of the printing systems by providing the updated/current configuration of the printer to the control interface of the computer so that the user confidently sets up the print job at his computer without going to the printer for checking the status of the printer.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and in combination with Katahira (US Patent No. 6,628,418 B1).

As to claim 13, Gibbons discloses every feature discussed in claim 12.

Although Gibbons teaches the medium (i.e., the memory 58 in fig. 1) for storing the control program codes such as the printer driver (col. 5, lines 29-31), Gibbons does not teach a medium further comprises a downloadable file.

Katahira, in the same field of endeavor “the printing operation”, teaches the medium (i.e., FROM 46 in fig. 3) comprises a downloadable file (i.e., a new application program data) (col. 4, lines 5-8 and 18-20 describes that the new application program data from the computer 50 would be downloaded to the FROM 46 of the copier “fig. 1” for replacing the old program code).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to modify the memory 58 of Gibbons to comprise the downloadable file such as the new application program for replacing the old program as taught by Katahira. The suggestion for modifying the memory 58 of Gibbons can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Katahira because the modified printing systems which would increase the advantage of the controlling operations for the printer if the printer has a function for accepting the new program downloaded from the output device to update the old program code, and which would increase the reliability of the printer when the printing system is performed with the new and updated version of the application program.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Feb. 11, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tranlong", written in black ink.